

Make a Model of Saturn

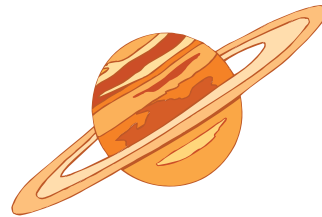
Saturn is known for its beautiful rings. Those rings are made up of chunks of ice and rock!

In this activity, you and your child will make a model of Saturn and its icy rings using a Styrofoam ball and a paper plate.

Modified from: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/cassini_make2.shtml.

What You Need:

- One 2-inch diameter Styrofoam ball, carefully cut in half
- One paper plate
- 2 or 3 wooden toothpicks
- Glue
- Glitter
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Small paper clip
- String or ribbon



What to Do:

- Cut a hole in the center of the paper plate that will fit around the Styrofoam ball tightly.
- Decorate the Styrofoam ball with the tissue paper and glue and let dry while you create the rings.
- Create rings around the edge of the paper plate on the front and back using the glue and glitter.
- Insert the Styrofoam ball into the center of the paper plate.
- Stick a bent paperclip into the middle of the Styrofoam ball and tie a string or ribbon to it for hanging purposes.

Parent Prompts:

What is Saturn actually made of? (Mostly the gases hydrogen and helium.)

What are its rings made of? (Mostly small icy particles – about the size of a dime to the size of a car, though some may be bigger.)

How big are Saturn's rings?

Are Saturn's rings thick like a donut, or thin like a dvd?

Share that the rings are as wide as the distance from Earth to the Moon – about 155,000 miles wide! But they are very, very thin – only a half mile in thickness.